

#### PORT OF MANCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

1939

.

4 1 E

the second of th

•

#### PORT OF MANCHESTER HEALTH AUTHORITY

Report by the Medical Officer of Health to the CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of Port Health Administration in the Port of Manchester for the year 1939 in accordance with Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1936.

This report is presented in the form desired by the Minister of Health and the statistical information is arranged in the form and sequence indicated in Circular 1937, dated 11th January, 1940.

The work of the Authority and their officers has been materially facilitated by the continued co-operation of the staff of the Manchester Ship Canal Company, whose assistance is greatly appreciated as an important contribution to efficiency.

I would also acknowledge the valuable help and advice of the Officers of H. M. Customs, which at all times have been willingly given.

E. H. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

168 Trafford Road, SALFORD.

June, 1940.

1 . 0

The membership of the Authority was as follows:-

如日本

Alderman Sir Thomas Robinson, Kt., K.B.E., J.P., Borough of Stretford, (Chairman). Alderman T. H. Hinchcliffe. Aldermen G. Hall' Manchester Councillor J. Owen Councillor J. H. Meachin Alderman W. S. Roberts Councillor W. W. Crabtree Salford Councillor G. H. Goulden Councillor J. Clark Councillor T. E. Collyer Borough of Eccles Irlam U. D. Urmston U. D. Councillor T. Ashley, J. P. Lymm U. D. Runcorn U. D. Runcorn R. D. Bucklow R. D. Councillor R. Done Warrington C. B. and R. D. Borough of Widnes Borough of Bebington Alderman G. H. Davies, J.P. Ellesmere Port U. D. Officials of the Authority: -Clerk to the Authority: A. H. Flint, Solicitor, Bexley Square, Salford, 3. Telephone: BLAckfriars 9214.
Medical Officer of Health: E. H. Walker, M.B., D.P.H. Telephones: Office, TRAfford Park 1714 Residence, LONgford 1700 "Portelth" Manchester. Telegrams: Deputy Medical Officer of Health: V. Newton, M.R.C.S., D.P.H. Telephone: BLAckfriars 7852 Sanitary Inspectors and Deratisation Officers: W. Richmond, Certified Sanitary Inspector W. Schofield, Master Mariner W. H. Jennings, Certified Sanitary Inspector. Certified Meat and Food Inspector Food Inspectors: J. Almond, Certified Sanitary Inspector. Certified Meat and Food Inspector. Geo. Whalley, Certified Sanitary Inspector. Certified Meat and Food Inspector Medical Officer's Clerks: J. B. O'Malley, T. A. Buckley Ratcatcher: J. Richards Offices: 168 Trafford Road, Salford, 5. Telephone: TRAfford Park 1714 "Westholm", Westfield Road, Runcorn. Telephone: Runcorn 2446

#### Table A

4 . 8

#### Foreign, Coastwise and Inland

Number Inspected by the Medical Officer	92
Number Inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors	1,995
Number reported to be defective	458
Number of vessels on which Defects were remedied	306
Number of vessels reported as having or having had,	
during the voyage Infectious Disease on Board	17

#### PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933

The main provisions of the Regulations and the arrangements made to carry out the Authority's obligations thereunder have been fully detailed in previous Reports.

#### Treatment of Venereal Disease

The following information as to the treatment of seamen in the Port suffering from Venereal disease, is supplied by the Medical Officer of the Salford Municipal Centre, which is the nearest Treatment Centre to the Docks.

Α.	Patients with Syphilis Soft Chancre Gonorrhoea	British Seamen 5 5 9	Foreign Seamen 11 9 22
	Conditions other than Venereal	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u> 63
	Total	40	<del></del>
В.	Total number of Attendances of Patients	600	212

## Table C

#### Cases of Infectious Sickness on Vessels in the Port

	Number of cases
	<b>during 1939</b>
Disease	Crew
Pneumonia	2
Malaria	1
Tuberculosis	1
Erysipelas	1
Meningitis	1

#### Table D

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the Voyage but disposed of prior to arrival in Manchester.

	Numer of cases
Disease	during 1939
Pneumonia	9
Malaria	5
Tuberculosis	1

No case of plague, cholera, yellow fever or typhus fever occurred and no plague-infected rats were found on vessels within the Port during 1939. No severe outbreak of malaria occurred on any vessel arriving in the Port during the year.

#### MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS

Measures for the detection of rodent plague, the detection of rat prevalence in ships and on shore, the prevention of the passage of rats between ships and the shore, and the deratisation of ships and of premises in the vicinity of docks or quays, have continued on the lines detailed in previous reports.

During the year there was a decrease in the number of rats destroyed on shipboard. The total number obtained from ships was 1,311 as against 1,720 in 1938 and 2,596 in 1937.

From Dock premises the number obtained by the ratcatcher employed by the Manchester Ship Canal Company was 2,271.

On vessels in docks, trapping accounted for 681 rats, of which number 227 were from ships arriving from Infected Ports. 310 were destroyed as a result of the 10 fumigations carried out during the year, as compared with 394 rats destroyed by 19 fumigations in 1938.

In 401 instances ships were found without ratguards in position. 641 re-visits were made to note if and in what manner instructions had been carried out.

#### RATCATCHER'S WORK

The Authority's rateatcher is employed in searching vessels for evidence of rodents, and in estimating the number of rats present on each vessel. All rats caught are destroyed and specimens are regularly submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. 46 rats were submitted for examination during the year, but no plague infection was discovered.

Cage traps only are used, and were laid on 372 vessels during the year. Daily visits were made and the following results were obtained:-

Vessels Visited 528 Re-visits Paid 1,746 Rats trapped 681

(1 . 1 B)

Total visits and Re-visits

2,274

Special attention is directed to ships from Infected Ports and the Inspectors give detailed directions as to the measures to be taken to prevent passage of rodents between ships and shore. The ratcatcher attends daily on each vessel coming from an "Infected" port. 227 rats were trapped by the ratcatcher during the year on such vessels.

#### RATS DESTROYED DURING 1939

#### Table E

#### (1) On Vessels

4.47

No. of Rats Destroyed No. of Rats Examined No. of Rats found to be Infected with Plague.

991 10 Nil

#### Table F

#### (2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses

No. of Rats Destroyed No. of Rats Examined No. of Rats found to be Infected with Plague 2,695 36 Nil

#### Table G

# Particulars relating to Rat Destruction on Plague "Infected" or "Suspected" Vessels or Vessels from Plague Infected Ports arriving in the Port during 1939

Number of Vessels fumigated by HCN	Nil
Number of Vessels fumigated by SO2	4
Number of Rats killed	120
Number of Vessels on which trapping, poisoning, etc. were	
employed	67
Number of Rats killed	227
Number of Vessels on which measures of Rat Destruction	· ·
were not carried out	11
were not carried out	11

#### Table H

## Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year

Number of Deratisation Certificates Issued:	
After fumigation with HCN 4	
After fumigation with Sulphur 5	
After fumigation with Salforkose 1	10
Number of Deratisation Exemption Certificates iss	ued 221
Total Certificates issued	231

#### IV .- HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES

#### Table J

#### Classification of Nuisances

	British	Other Nations
Defects of original construction	40	22
Structural defects through wear and tear	327	70
Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial		
to health	164	55
Structural Alterations	5	5

#### PARROTS (PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATIONS, 1930

4211

During the year 21 certificates for the re-exportation of 25 birds were issued under the above Regulations. Four birds were destroyed on board various vessels.

#### FOOD INSPECTION

Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food)
Regulations, 1925 to 1937, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927, has continued as in previous years. Records are available of all foodstuffs condemned or surrendered as unsound.

During the year 9 samples were submitted for analysis of which 2 were found not to conform with the Regulations.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

#### CANAL BOATS

377 inspections were made of 259 Canal Boats. Defects were found on 66 boats during the course of the year, and the number of defective boats reported remedied was 42.